

The Crucible, Act IV, by Arthur Miller**Enrichment: Research**

Time after time in the workplace, those who are well prepared with thorough documentation succeed. In *The Crucible*, Giles Corey succeeds in many of his legal dealings by doing his own research. Indeed, some of the credibility of the play comes from the fact that Miller had done enough research to seem authoritative on the events of 1692.

Today, knowing how to research is a valuable skill. Here are a few strategies:

1. **Define your topic.** What, exactly, do you want to know? Miller did not want to know about the Salem trials, he wanted to know about the people in them.
2. **Identify likely sources.** After you know what you're looking for, ask yourself where you would be most likely to find it. Information professionals try to organize data and information in the simplest, most logical way. Use the same idea to find what you need.
3. **Limit your search.** After defining a topic and identifying sources, further narrow the search. Internet and on-line information systems often help you refine your search through keywords.
4. **Pursue references.** You may not always find what you're looking for, but you may find a reference to the source that has exactly what you want. Bibliographies can also be a source.
5. **Follow your curiosity.** You know what you want, and if you've defined a topic and narrowed your search, trust your curiosity. Within reason, follow your instinct.
6. **Take careful, detailed notes.** Nothing is more frustrating than finding exactly what you want but failing to keep a good record of it. You also need to be able to document your work.
7. **Ask.** In almost any place you're seeking information, someone is available who knows how to find it. They'll be glad to show you how and where to look.

DIRECTIONS: Show how the preceding principles of research might have been used by Arthur Miller in preparing to write *The Crucible*.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____
